



countdown

June 5, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 42

Spacewalk, robotics lead to installation of Japanese module



◆ Mission Update:

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station and space shuttle Discovery concluded their fifth flight day

Wednesday. Activities included entering the Kibo Japanese Pressurized Module for the first time, removing and replacing a portion of the station's environmental control system and the carbon dioxide removal assembly, and checking out the orbiter boom sensor system electronics. The sensor system will be used later in the mission to inspect Discovery's heat shield before the shuttle returns to Earth. The space station crew also replaced hardware in their toilet system with new equipment that was launched on Discovery.

◆ **Science Update:** Engineers and scientists operating NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander decided early Tuesday to repeat a practice test of releasing Martian soil from the scoop on the lander's robotic arm.

When the arm collected and released its first scoopful of soil on Sunday, some of the sample stuck to the scoop. The team told Phoenix to lift another surface sample and release it, with more extensive imaging of the steps in the process.

"We are proceeding cautiously," said Phoenix Principal Investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona. "Before we begin delivering samples to the instruments on the deck, we want a good understanding of how the soil behaves."

For more about Phoenix, visit:
<http://www.nasa.gov/phoenix> and
<http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu>.

Phoenix scooping up Mars for testing

■ KEA-21: Solar Alpha Rotary

Joint, or SARJ — The topic "Failure Analysis at KSC: The SARJ Case Study" will be presented by Steve McDanel, Torey Salazar and Clara Wright. Failure analysis is a well-established field where forensic evidence is used to determine a component's failure mode. But what happens when the failure occurs in low-Earth orbit? The presenters will review the procedures and equipment that NASA's Materials Science Division uses for typical terrestrial failure investigations and how these techniques were used to determine the failure mode of the ISS starboard SARJ primary race ring from a limited number of samples brought back to Earth on STS-120 and STS-122. This event will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. June 11 in the KSC Training Auditorium. As a bonus, there will be 3D images.

NASA and contractor personnel are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Gisele Altman at gisele.altman-1@nasa.gov or 867-4000. To view past KEA events or presentations, please visit the Web site: <http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov/courses.htm>.

■ **New KSC/ODIN Web Site** — On June 2, Outsourcing Desktop Initiative for NASA, or ODIN, launched a new Web site for their customers. Check out the latest training class schedule and ODIN tips, and learn more about all of ODIN services by visiting <https://www.odin.lmit.com/ksc/>.

■ **Blood Drive June 10** — The bus will be located in the south courtyard of the Headquarters Building from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday. Please bring a photo ID

with your first and last name. All blood donors will receive a Summer 08 T-shirt and other incentives. For an appointment, please contact Lillian Belmont at Lbelmont@floridasbloodcenters.org. Walk-ons are also welcome. For medical eligibility questions, call 1-888-9-DONATE or visit the Web site at www.floridasbloodcenters.org.

■ **Two Weeks to KSC BEST BBQ** — All KSC, CCAFS and PAFB employees and students are invited to attend the festivities from 3 to 6 p.m. June 20 at KARS Park I (Area 2). Food will be served between 3:15 and 5 p.m. Along with the food, enjoy a car show, karaoke contests and cake walk prizes. Tickets are on sale only through June 13! See the [May 20 issue](#) for a list of people selling tickets.



■ **Hurricane Season** — The 2008 Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be more active than average. Fifteen named storms are predicted for the Atlantic Basin between June 1 and Oct. 30. Eight of those are predicted to become hurricanes. The names chosen for the tropical storms this season are Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gustav, Hanna, Ike, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paloma, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky and Wilfred.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find pdf editions of *Countdown* on the Web at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.